The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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LOW-WAGE EMPLOYERS IGNORE RACE OR COLOR

St. Louis, Mo., July 28.—Writing in Reedy's Mirror on the East St. Louis anti-negro riots, Harry B. Kennon says:

"Whatever of filthily dispensed rotten whiskey, or rotten politics common to the misgovernment of our municipalities, investigation of the recent East St. Louis massacre may disclose, back of all looms the primary cause; an artificial migration of labor to an industrial center unable to assimilate it. That the laborers were negroes is the negro's misfortune—irreparable to individual sufferers. But had East St. Louis been called upon to assimilate a like surplus of any foreign labor there would likewise have been trouble. Not so swiftly terrible, perhaps, but trouble of the gravest nature.

"It is no secret that our captains of industry systematically pull wires to maintain a surplus of labor in the centers, nor that they depend upon municipal, state and federal aid to down the surplus when unruly. They declare themselves innocent and injured when mobs arise, trusting in their powerful organization and in the need of the public for their output to conquer mobs of their creation. Their declarations are taken by the public with that grain of salt that removes the unpalatable from the inconvenient.

"The negro will have to be his own best friend in killing race prejudice and, futhermore, he will have to recognize the fact that he is not the sole sufferer from such conditions as existed in East St. Louis. For white men have been as freely exploited for surplus labor material as negroes—more so, since negro labor is not particularly prized by northern captains of industry. What the writer saw being done in the south in the fall and winter of 1916 he had seen in southern Europe 10 years before. Hired labor agents from the United States, efficiently assisted by the steamship companies, were raking the land, offering shining inducements to downtrodden men, who did not know they were downtrodden until fired with the fact to migrate to the land of milk and honey. The assimilation of that artificial, over-accelerated migration has been so complete and satisfactory that the United States, through municipal police, her national guard and federal troops, has been quelling rebellions almost constantly that would have wrecked a country of less extent or a government less elastic."

STRIKE FOR LESS HOURS.

Seattle, Wash., July 28.—Timber workers and shingle weavers throughout western Washington have suspended work to secure a shorter workday after making repeated efforts to induce employers to meet them in conference. The only answer of the employers was to vote $500,000 to fight.

These workers demand eight hours in the saw mill branch and nine hours in the logging branch. Working conditions in this industry is shown by these additional demands:

Sanitary toilets in all mills; heated lunch rooms; semi-monthly pay days; freedom to board and trade at the option of the employe; abolishing of brass checks and trading coupons and the substitution therefor of legal money; no loss of time when breakdown occurs and the men are kept on the job; freedom of speech shall not be abridged; no tampering with the worker's mail; sanitary bunkhouses and sufficient light in same.

The strikers are members of the International Shingle Weavers' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

BLAME RETAILERS NOW.

Trenton, N. J., July 28.—The weekly expose of the reason for the high cost of retailed farm products in New Jersey places the burden upon the retailers, who are making enormous profits, ranging from 4 per cent to 460 per cent.

This expose is issued by the state department of agriculture at the instance of Governor Edge.

The comparative tables show that in nearly every instance the wholesale city price, as compared with the farm price of certain vegetables, does not show anything like the margin of profit exacted by retailers in cities.

One of the interesting facts in this week's statement is that with the farm and wholesale price of cabbage running comparatively low, the retail profits again soared from 60 per cent to 460 per cent, with the highest margins of profit existing in Mount Holly and Philadelphia, which are the market centers nearest the Wrightstown camp of the United States army.

MINERS POSTPONE STRIKE.

Denver, July 28.—The call for a strike on August 1 in all the mines of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company (Rockefeller's concern) has been cancelled by the United Mine Workers and a conference will be held by both parties to discuss grievances.

President Welborn, of the company, said he would be very glad if the conference will bring to light any grievance among the men of which the officials have been kept in ignorance.

Three years ago this company answered their employes with strike guards, state militia, a subsidized press, and a controlled legislature and state officials. But since that strike, the Ludlow affair and the failure to "railroad" miners to the state penitentiary may have induced the company to adopt different methods.

SAVE COMPENSATION LAW.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 28.—Old line insurance companies have lost their fight against the Pennsylvania workmen's compensation law, with Governor Brumbaugh's signature to the Woodward bill which releases premium incomes for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the fund, if such release is necessary.

The success of the compensation law threatens private liability companies and these concerns threw a strong lobby into the state capital in an effort to hamper the measure.

FARMS FOR PRISONERS.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 28.—Governor Brumbaugh has signed the Nason bill providing for nine industrial farms, to which the courts can transfer prisoners confined in jails. Special provision is to be made at these farms for the treatment of inebriates and drug addicts. All sent to the farms will be employed, as much as possible, in the open air, and it is intended to supply state institutions with farm produce.

BOATMEN ASK AID.

San Francisco, July 28.—Striking river steam boatmen have issued an appeal for moral assistance in their fight against the 12-hour day and the non-union shop. The strikers say the companies are the only employers in this state who demand the 12-hour day.

ENJOINED SINCE 1907 COAL MINERS NOW QUIT

McMechen, W. Va., July 28.—Federal Judge Dayton, in October, 1907, enjoined officers of the United Mine Workers from visiting the homes of the employes of the Hitchman Coal and Coke company, or attempting to organize them "without the company's consent."

Last week these miners distributed the following notice:

"To whom it may concern: The miners employed at the Hitchman mine, located at McMechen, W. Va., have quit their jobs because the company refuses to recognize the United Workers of America. They are going where they can belong to the union."

In a telegram to Secretary of Labor Wilson, asking that the federal department of labor assist them, the miners declare their willingness, as patriotic citizens, to help the government, and insist that they "have the right to exercise at home the spirit of democracy for which our country is fighting."

Judge Dayton's injunction is pending in the United States supreme court, on appeal by the coal company, because the federal court of appeals, at Richmond, Va., has reversed the order. In its reversal the court said:

"In the first place it should be understood once and for all that so long as capital employs legitimate means for the protection of property rights, that it is to be accorded the protection of the law; but this does not mean that capital may, by improper methods, form combinations for the purpose of preventing labor from organizing for mutual protection."

In 1915 Congressman Neely, of West Virginia, started impeachment proceedings against Judge Dayton, but the latter escaped by the committee reporting a Scotch verdict, "Not guilty, but don't do it again."

The majority report of the committee stated that "the evidence shows many matters of individual bad taste on the part of Judge Dayton—some not of that high standard of judicial ethics which should crown the federal judiciary." Among these was included proof that he held stock in mining companies.

METAL MINERS STRIKE.

Leadville, Col., July 28.—After months of negotiations and repeated concessions, metal miners in this district have suspended work to enforce a living wage rate. Several weeks ago the state industrial commission decided that the mine owners could not afford higher wages. The federal department of labor has attempted to adjust differences and the employes cut their wage demand in half, but the offer was rejected.

Most of the strikers are affiliated with the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, formerly the Western Federation of Miners. The usual charges of "disloyalty" and "emissaries" are hurled at the strikers, but this is answered by a special correspondent of a Denver newspaper, who has investigated the strike and who writes as follows:

"Before entering into a consideration of the rights and wrongs of the Leadville situation, it may be well to sweep away the mass of fallacies that has well-nigh buried the truth. But it may be stated at the outset that there is only one reason for the strike in the Leadville mines—demand for higher wages based on the abnormal increase in the cost of living."

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

Tacoma, Wash., July 28.—Because the Tacoma Railroad and Power company discharged members of the newly formed Street Car Men's union the street car service of this city is completely tied up. Manager Bean insists on the right to "discipline his employes," but his employes reply that disciplinary measures shall not include anti-unionism. The manager boasts of his membership in the Employers' association.

Seattle, Wash., July 28.—Employes of the Puget Sound Traction, Light and Power company are on strike because of the anti-union attitude of this company and in sympathy with striking Tacoma street car men. Both railway systems are operated by the same parties.

REJECT LOW WAGE OFFER.

New York, July 28.—Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have rejected the offer of employers to raise wages of cutters and pressers $1 a week. Wages of all other workers are to remain the same. The garment workers asked for a 20 per cent increase and in their letter declining the offer they assure the manufacturers that the high cost of living strikes all workers alike, and that "our union could not under any circumstances consider an arrangement which would favor a small portion of its members and leave the bulk of them in want of the barest necessaries of life, nor will its members be satisfied with a purely nominal wage increase."

NONPARTISAN TOPS ALL.

Fargo, N. D., July 28.—Practically complete unofficial returns from the First congressional district show that John M. Baer, farmers' candidate, indorsed by the Nonpartisan league, received more votes than all his seven opponents together. The size of Baer's vote and the total number of votes cast at this special election has staggered the special interests who depended on a small vote and who now find that the farmers, for the first time in America, have elected a congressman on a nonpartisan basis.

TAXI DRIVERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, July 28.—The Zumstein Taxicab company has signed a two-year agreement with Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs' union No. 793. Wages are increased $1.25 a week and overtime pay raised from 37 1-2 to 40 cents an hour with one day off a month with pay. It is believed that other automobile and livery concerns will accept this agreement.

STEAM ENGINEERS GAIN.

Chicago, July 28.—Thorough organization of steam engineers employed in the ice making industry has resulted in wage increases of 15 per cent, or $4.20 a week. A strike was arranged for when the employers agreed that the new state industrial board could adjust differences.

INTIMIDATE COAL MINERS.

Benham, Ky., July 28.—Coal operators at this place have placed armed guards around their mines to prevent employes from conferring with officials of the United Mine Workers. The miners are determined to organize, however, despite these intimidating tactics.

ARIZONA THUGGERY VIOLATES WORKERS' RIGHTS

Washington, July 28.—"The government should take immediate action to prevent men from being deported. If they violate the law the courts are open and they should be tried in an orderly manner."

The above is included in A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison's protest to government officials in forwarding an appeal against the deportation of workingmen from Bisbee, Arizona, by so-called "leading citizens," who are taking advantage of war excitement to attack every workingman who opposes exploitation.

This thuggery and violation of all law is explained by C. E. Tracy, secretary of the Phoenix (Ariz.) Typographical union, in a telegram to Secretary Morrison, which says:

"Twelve hundred men, 30 per cent A. F. of L., deported from Bisbee by armed Citizen's Alliance. No union men allowed to enter town. Many women and children left destitute. Members of alliance insulting women. Don't be misled by Associated Press dispatches. We demand federal investigation."

In additional reports to A. F. of L. headquarters unionists charge that the Phelps-Dodge corporation dominates the Arizona copper district and public officials in that section. It is stated that men are put in jail and charged with every sort of crime if they are in any way interested in the labor question.

The methods of this corporation is shown in its refusal to permit telegrams to be forwarded from Bisbee during the deportation. Later the corporation, through its New York office, apologized to the Associated Press and gave assurance that this "was contrary to their policy."

Kansas City, Mo., July 28.—In the weekly bulletin of the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths International President Franklin says protests have been made to federal officials against the Bisbee deportation.

"We are advised that the families of many men are in destitute circumstances," he says, "while their husbands, fathers and brothers are being held in a detention camp in Columbus, and that men in Miami, Globe and Morenci are being arrested on any trivial or protest charge and thrown in jail.

"We have no sympathy with the I. W. W. movement, but we most emphatically protest against the high-handed method used by the mob who deported all men who were in any way obnoxious to the interest of their bosses, who evidently control the prosecutors' office, the sheriff's office, and in fact all other county and state officials, and who will not only permit, but are the instruments with which the high-handed methods are perpetrated."

El Paso, Tex., July 28.—In its last issue the Labor Advocate has this to say of the Bisbee deportation:

"General Organizer Hayden of the Brotherhood of Carpenters has just returned from Bisbee and reports that the so-called Loyalty league of Bisbee is simply a self-constituted body of men who stated to him that their avowed purpose was to destroy every labor union in the city of Bisbee; that the I. W. W. question is purely a blind so that these merchants and manufacturers' representatives may have an excuse for endeavoring to disrupt organized labor."

Organizer Hayden has notified building craftsmen to stay away from Bisbee because of the kangaroo court of the self-appointed Law and Order league, which has declared for nonunionism.

OPPOSE DEPORTATION.

New York, July 28.—The Garment Worker, official magazine of the United Garment Workers, is one of the many labor papers that raises a warning note against the deportation of workers at Bisbee, Arizona, because it is alleged they belong to a so-called "revoluntionary" union.

"In a democracy there is no room for anarchy, whether it be practiced by the multimillionaire or the manual laborer," says the Garment Worker, "and if our institutions are to survive the sooner this doctrine is impressed upon those who set aside the laws established by society for its protection, just so much nearer will we come to that step in the progress of democracy for which our country has enlisted all its wealth in human beings and treasure.

"Lincoln truly said that no country could exist half slave and half free men, but the serfdom of the chattel slave was not nearly as dangerous to the welfare of our common country as is an industrial serfdom dominated by a financial and anarchistic oligarchy."

PROFITEERS WARNED.

San Francisco, July 28.—Editor Crothers of the Bulletin warns certain business men that President Wilson's recent declaration on profiteers and patriotism, "is a thinly-veiled purpose, so resolute and so just that it will summon every liberal force in the United States to his side.

"Wealth may take its choice as the nation's men did between volunteering and being conscripted. If the patriotic motive is not sufficient to keep the wheels turning, the government will furnish other motives. Wealth must make sacrifices, because it is in a position to do so, just as young men between 21 and 31 are called upon to make sacrifices, because they, of all our citizenry, can best do so. The great industries cannot make low prices to the government and recoup themselves by gouging the public. There must be one price to all and that merely a living one. This is the conscription of wealth at the least painful point, the source."

FARMERS TO FEDERATE.

Union City, Ga., July 28.—Charles S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union, announces that preliminary meetings have made almost certain the federation of all farmers' societies into one grand organization.

One result of this federation will be, says President Barrett, "that we will have in the city of Washington a temple of agriculture owned by these confederated societies which will be creditable to us from every standpoint. In that temple we will have a permanent home for all the organized farmers of America, and being at the seat of government we will be in position to protect our interests by keeping our members advised as to what is being done by suggestions when occasions arise which call for action."

ANTI-STRIKE LAW OPPOSED.

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, July 28.—"The Lemieux act is a dead letter because the workers refuse to obey it and it cannot be enforced," says the Hamilton Herald in discussing the Canadian industrial disputes act. This legislation prohibits public utility employes from striking until after the government has been notified and a commission appointed. The act is the basis of similar legislation in Colorado, which is also opposed by the organized workers of that state.

POLISHERS RAISE WAGES.

Lyons, Iowa, July 28.—The Clinton Lock Company has signed an agreement with its organized metal polishers, platers and buffers and these workers have returned to work after a three-weeks' strike. Rates are increased 5 cents an hour, and 25 and 50 cents a day.

Cincinnati, July 28.—Metal Polishers' unions Nos. 68 and 72 report general wage increases and improved working conditions.

NINE-HOUR DAY STANDS.

Topeka, Kan., July 28.—The Kansas Retailers' association has lost its fight against the nine-hour day for women, which has been established by the state industrial welfare commission. The merchants pleaded that it was necessary to keep their stores open later than 9 o'clock on Saturday evenings but the commission rejected the appeal.

DEMAND LIVING WAGE.

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 28.—Organized laborers employed in the power house at the Caster shop have suspended work to enforce a living wage. These workers have been receiving the munificent sum of 12 1-2 cents an hour.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Chicago, July 28.—Over 2,000 organized barbers have raised wages $3 a week and succeeded in organizing 300 shops, with a union membership gain of over 400. Strikes were first necessary to secure these gains.

UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Jefferson City, Mo., July 28.—Officers of the Missouri state federation of labor have issued a call for the twenty-sixth annual convention, to be held in this city, beginning Monday, September 17.

SECURE 8-HOUR DAY.

Peru, Ill., July 28.—The Illinois Zinc company has placed its organized machinists on the eight-hour day basis, with 10-hours' pay.

PROOF OF PATRIOTISM.

Fargo, N. D., July 28.—Under the above caption the Fargo Daily Courier-News says:

"The food control bill means government regulation of the prices of farm products. There can be no question about that. Almost certainly it means that through government authority a purchase price for wheat shall be fixed.

"The farmers are in a unique position. They have not merely consented to regulation of their prices by the government. They have asked for such regulation. Real representatives of practically all the leading organizations of farmers producing food products have urged congress to haste the passage of the food bill.

"Are the packers asking for government regulation of their prices? Are the steel makers asking for government regulation of their prices? Are the manufacturers of flour, of shoes, of harnesses, of implements, of clothing and other goods asking for government regulation of their prices? Oh, no; they are resisting it. They expect to do better without government regulation."

QUIZ CANDIDATES.

Richmond, Va., July 28.—The state federation of labor has received many favorable replies to a list of legislative measures which it has submitted to candidates. The list includes: Workmen's compensation law, regulation of injunctions in labor disputes, eight-hour day on state work, state printing plant to print free school books, increased appropriation for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis, additional factory inspectors, minimum wage law for women, eliminating the manufacture of all convict made goods, amend state constitution so as to allow the payment of poll taxes up to 30 days before election, equal suffrage, inspection of steam boilers.

TEXTILE WORKERS STRIKE.

Stonington, Conn., July 28.—An agreement violation by the American Velvet company has caused another strike at that plant. A few weeks ago these workers, then unorganized, suspended work to secure a 15 per cent wage increase. They organized a United Textile Workers' union and secured a settlement which included a 10 per cent wage increase and recognition of their organization. Later a grievance arose and when a committee waited on the superintendent to adjust the differences as provided in the agreement, he refused to recognize them. The plant is tied up as a result.

HIGHER WAGES URGED.

Greenville, S. C., July 28.—"Mill employes are entitled to more than free house rent and small bonuses," said H. K. Townes, attorney of this city, in a local newspaper. He says Greenville cotton mills are making larger profits than ever before and that the clear profits of some mills in the south equal as much as their entire capital stock.

"The mills are making tremendous profit and cannot afford to stop running. Their employes should have a substantial wage increase. They could not have a better opportunity than right now to organize and enforce their demands for higher wages."

MUSICIANS WANT MORE.

Philadelphia, July 28.—Failure to negotiate a new wage scale resulted in a strike of 200 musicians employed in theaters and motion picture houses.

The musicians are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The last wage scale negotiated by the men and the theater managers expired last April, and since then the men have been working on a supplementary contract.

The demands include an increase of $3 a week for all musicians except the leaders.

HOW TO CURE CONSUMPTION.

Manchester, England, July 28.—At the annual conference of the national union of railway men, it was declared that "the most effective way of eradicating the fearful scourge of consumption, is to insure that the citizens are not lacking in nourishing food, healthy homes and reasonable facilities for leisure and open air life." These railway workers insist that everything possible should be done to provide adequate accommodations for consumption victims.

SEEK INSURANCE PLAN.

San Francisco, July 28.—Because the United States supreme court has recently held that the workmen's compensation law does not apply to employes under the maritime contract, water front and shipping employers and employes are attempting to evolve their own compensation system. Both parties are agreed to the necessity of this plan. The problem is made easier because of the employers' opposition to old individual insurance systems.

LEATHER WORKERS GAIN.

Lowell, Mass., July 28.—Leather Workers' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has secured a one-year union shop agreement. Wages are increased 25 per cent for those receiving less than $20 a week, and 20 per cent for those receiving more than $20. Piece workers will be advanced 20 per cent, and the general wage increase will average 24 per cent.

POLISHERS TO CONVENE.

Cincinnati, July 28.—Local metal polishers are arranging for the thirteenth annual convention of their international, to be held in this city, commencing Monday, August 20.

FAVOR NEW LABOR LAW.

Springfield, Ill., July 28.—"The compulsory compensation act, passed by the last legislature, is the most important law every enacted for the protection of the workers of this state," says Frank Farrington, president of district No. 12, United Mine Workers, in a letter addressed to the Illinois locals of this organization, which states that the district's legal department will handle all compensation cases requiring legal attention without cost to the individual.

"This means," says the miners' executive, "that our members and widows and dependents of members, will have the best legal advice and yet retain every penny of the amount due them under the law without any deductions whatever for legal advice and service. I think it proper that you should know that the Illinois Miners' union is the only labor organization in the world that provides such service for its members."

WANTS WOMEN PROTECTED.

Denver, July 28.—In an address to the Denver Woman's club, State Labor Commissioner Morrissey protested against the undermining of wage standards on the plea of "war necessity."

"An army of women has come into the industries for the first time," he said, "and the tendency is to speed up without paying women on the same basis as men. There should be the same pay for women as for men providing the work is equal, and there should be no discrimination because of sex."

"Labor strength is impaired by long hours and the speeding up processes. Women must be protected from dangerous tasks, from moral or physical exploitation. It is necessary to have strict administration of the labor laws in order to insure complete protection of working men and women under the pressure of war."

"JUNKERS" DENOUNCED.

Washington, July 28.—When working men are forced to go on strike these days to maintain their living standards, the cry of "lack of patriotism" is raised by those who now have the tables turned on them by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Vrooman.

"There is a pernicious breed of tories, junkers and reactionaries in every large city and in every state in this land," says this federal official. "They belong to no one party. They bear the black flag of financial piracy and the yellow flag of economic treason. At every election from this time forth, the liberals of all political parties should make common cause against the junker reactionaries. A political realignment is demanded with patriots whose motto is 'service to country' arrayed in a solid phalanx against those unscrupulous, disloyal self-seekers."

STAND FOR UNION SHOP.

Atlantic City, N. J., July 28.—The National Brotherhood of Operative Potters' convention indorsed a resolution giving its members the right to refuse to work with non-unionists "after certain processes of the organization have been gone through with in strict conformity with the constitution." Membership campaigns will be undertaken immediately on the return of the delegates to their homes and an appeal will be made to suspended members to reinstate themselves in good standing.

The convention raised strike benefits in local disputes from $7.50 to $10 a week, beginning August 1. General strike benefits of $5 a week remain the same, with the exception that provision has been made that any member thrown out of work by a general strike is privileged to earn $10 a week at some other calling without endangering his benefits.

CLERKS FALL IN LINE.

New Haven, Conn., July 28.—Retail clerks in this city have abandoned the Retail Employes' league and will join the bona fide trade union movement. The league was started for the purpose of reducing hours but when the clerks awakened to the opposition of their employers and to the indifference of organized labor, because of their refusal to be recognized as trade unionists, they changed their tactics.

WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Pineville, Ky., July 28.—An eight-hour day was demanded by organized miners employed in southeastern Kentucky and Tennessee at their convention at this place. Other demands include recognition of the union, wage increases, uniform wage scale for outside and inside work, check weighmen and pay for all coal mined.

WIRE MEN WANT MORE.

Sacramento, Cal., July 28.—Electrical Workers' union No. 36 asks the city commissioners to pay its members employed by the municipality $6 a day. Lamp trimmers, now paid $100 a month, ask a $10 increase. The commissioners have promised to provide in the next budget for these increases.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 28.—An arbitration board has raised plumbers' wages from $4.25 to $5 a day, to date from March 1. Employers insisted on $4.75, but the unionists made the point that $5 was paid outside men on rush contracts.

BARBERS WANT MORE.

Oakland, Cal., July 28.—Barbers' union No. 134 has presented a new wage scale to employers. Rates are advanced from $15 to $18 a week and the closing hour made 7 p. m. instead of 8 p. m.

TO ORGANIZE STOCKYARDS.

Chicago, July 28.—Refusing to be discouraged by repeated repulses, organized labor is arranging for another trade union "drive" on the meat packing industry in this city.

It is declared that packers have forced their employes down to such depths of poverty and industrial slavery that it constitutes a national disgrace, and the local federation of labor has instructed its officers to call a meeting of representatives of trade unions having jurisdiction over these workers for the purpose of launching an organizing campaign among the exploited men, women and children.

It is stated that of 40,000 workers only the hair spinners, coopers, teamsters and some of the butchers are organized.

Denver, July 28.—Over 1,000 men and women employed in the Swift and Armour packing plants in this city are on strike because of the discharge of employes who joined the new union of butcher workmen.

IF WOMEN ORGANIZED.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 28.—"Isn't it a stinging indictment against employers as a class?" asks the Citizen, published by organized labor, in commenting on the minimum wage decision of $10 a week for women by a state commission.

"Think of the tens of thousands of women in California and in every other state in this nation," says this paper, "working for wages barely sufficient to keep body and soul together.

"Were women as wise as they are gentle, they would look to themselves instead of to men. They would organize. And once organized they would not beg men or the state for justice. They would take it.

"Instead of meekly and thankfully accepting the paltry sum of $10 for a week's wages, they would demand and get the same wages that men receive for the same service."

CAR MEN SCORE HEAVILY.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 28.—After a complete tie-up of nearly three days the Street Car Men's union scored heavily against the Toronto Railway company. Before the strike the wage rate was 26, 28, and 30 cents an hour and the men demanded 36, 38, and 40 cents, according to length of service. The company offered 2 cents raise but this was not considered. The second offer of 6 cents an hour was accepted. The scale is now 32, 34, and 36 cents. All other questions are submitted to a conciliation board. As the company raised wages voluntarily 2 cents an hour a short time ago the actual increase during the past few months is 8 cents.

"ACTING UNDER ORDERS."

Cincinnati, July 28.—The annual convention of the metal polishers' international will be held in this city next month and some locals, as usual, are instructing their delegates to "stand firm" for certain resolutions. This causes Editor Atheron, of the metal polishers' official journal, to ask:

"What would happen if 100 delegates, each with different opinion on every resolution, stood pat, refused to accept or concede any changes?"

WILL ARBITRATE NOW.

Ayer, Mass., July 28.—Contractors engaged in the construction of the army cantonment at Ayer have agreed to arbitrate differences with their striking plumbers and these workers have returned to work. The plumbers objected to union conditions being disregarded and appealed to the contractors to arbitrate. A short strike was necessary before the contractors accepted this common-sense view.

CONSCRIPT WEALTH.

Faribault, Minn., July 28.—At the convention of the Minnesota state federation of labor it was voted that conscription of wealth is as necessary as conscription of men for the successful conduct of the present war. All officers were re-elected and Virginia was chosen as the next convention city.

COSSACKS IN COLORADO?

Denver, July 28.—The special session of the state legislature is asked to establish the cossack system in Colorado. Representative Ardourel has introduced the resolution. This is the favorite subject of Mr. Ardourel. He has introduced the subject on two previous occasions.

MILL MEN ORGANIZE.

Dallas, Tex., July 28.—Officials of the Carpenters' union have organized the mill men in this city, despite threats of employers that they will close their plants. One mill has already announced that working hours will be reduced from nine to eight.

SHOP MEN RAISE WAGES.

Ashley, Pa., July 28.—The Central Railroad of New Jersey has raised wages of its shop men 10 per cent, agreed to recognize grievance committees and pay time and one-half for overtime. These workers are now joining the union of their craft.

O'CONNOR RE-ELECTED.

Toledo, Ohio, July 28.—At the convention of the International Longshoremen's association President O'Connor and Secretary-Treasurer Joyce were re-elected. Galveston was selected as the next convention city.

WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Pittsburg, Kan., July 28.—The Joplin and Pittsburg Traction company has signed a union shop agreement with its firemen, who struck against a 12-hour day.

ENGLISH EMPLOYER FAVORS 6-HOUR DAY

Manchester, England, July 28.—Lord Leverhulme, large soap manufacturer, has declared in favor of the six-hour day and suggests that two shifts might be worked one from 7 a. m. to 1:30 p. m., with half an hour for breakfast, and the other from 1:30 p. m. to 8 p. m., with half an hour for supper, the workers to take each shift in alternate weeks.

The Cotton Factory Times says Lord Leverhulme makes no pretense of manufacturing soap from philanthropic motives and has frequently confessed that he runs his business on the lines adopted because he has found that it is that method which pays best.

"But" says this paper, "the fact that his lordship's works turns out higher dividends because the conditions of labor there prevailing are considerable in advance of the general standard, in no way lessens the value of his industrial innovations from the social point of view. Lord Leverhulme is one of those who have demonstrated that long hours of work do not pay and has now come to the conclusion that a general adoption of the six-hour day would be beneficial all around. The output would be increased, the cost of production reduced and the workmen could be paid the same wages as for eight hours and so have the increase and leisure as pure gain. Labor first took up the eight-hour day when the 12-hour day was not uncommon and it still puts it in its program because, even today, in most industries it would be an advance. But there is no magic about eight hours which makes such a period the ideal length for the working day. Regarded in the light of modern knowledge and modern conditions, eight hours should be the maximum to which the working day should extend, rather than the minimum to which it should be reduced.

"It is a hopeful sign that so much attention is being given to the baleful effect of long hours and we may be grateful to Lord Leverhulme for giving the weight of his authority to so bold and beneficent a proposal as the six-hour day."

"HOPEFUL" FOR LABOR.

New York, July 28.—The National city bank, of which William Rockefeller, jr., J. Ogden Armour, Henry C. Frick and other captains of industry are directors, announces through its bulletin that the American labor situation has so developed as to "stimulate the interest of our industrial captains in working out a new relationship between the managements and the labor forces of our enterprises."

The bank management is inspired—or affects to be—over the outlook, but it is positive that the new order of things will not come "through the old idea of collective bargaining between the unions and industry in general."

It is proposed that workers be "given a larger share in the management of various industries." Trade unions are to be tabooed by those who have awakened to the fact that there is a "labor question," and who are puzzled to know what effect the end of the war will have on America's labor supply.

It is predicted that the signs are hopeful for workers—if they follow the advice of these employers, rather than do their own thinking and act collectively.

WAR SHERIFFS PROTESTED.

Fairmont, W. Va., July 28.—Organized labor in this state is protesting against some of Governor Cornwell's appointments of special war deputy sheriffs. The West Virginia State Federationist says: "Many good citizens of this state are not falling over themselves to serve as special war deputy sheriffs. In Fayette county many have refused to serve because it smacks too much like Baldwin 'guards' to suit self respecting citizens." This paper says that in the notorious company-ruled coal fields these deputies are being recruited from "boot leggers, gamblers and political prostitutes" and that the law was rushed through the special session of the legislature during the midnight hour, after the session should have legally adjourned.

IRON MOLDERS ENJOINED.

Cleveland, July 28.—Judge Morgan believes striking iron molders have a right to picket—but the picketing must be conducted along lines laid down by him.

He has issued an injunction to this effect, and orders that the pickets shall be limited. The molders refuse to have the court sit in judgment over their rights and will appeal the writ. The local federation of labor has promised to assist.

UNION WITHDRAWS OFFER.

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 28.—Textile workers have abandoned their attempts to compromise their strike and announce they will fight for a 25 per cent wage increase. They quote the associated charities whose officers admit that they have assisted families who were employed in the mills and who did not receive sufficient pay to meet living expenses.

STRIKEBREAKERS STRIKE.

Kansas City, Mo., July 28.—Strikebreakers employed at a box factory in this city quit their jobs in disgust when they were paid 18 and 19 cents an hour instead of the princely wage promised them. The Carpenters' union has charge of this strike which was caused by low wages. Several hundred men, women and children are involved.

APPROVE PENSION PLAN.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 28.—Governor Brumbaugh has signed the senate bill establishing a state teachers' retirement system on a basis of the teachers paying one-half and the state and the local district each one-fourth. The law will become operative when organizations are effected.

R. R. TELEGRAPHERS GAIN.

Cincinnati, July 28.—A strike of organized telegraphers employed by the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad was averted when General Manager Stevens agreed to advance wages and reduce the workday of telegraphers employed more than eight hours.

REJECT WAGE PROFFER.

San Francisco, July 28.—Electrical Workers' union No. 12 has rejected the wage agreement submitted by the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph company. The company's plan to promote men by examination was almost unanimously defeated.

EIGHT HOURS FOR DRIVERS.

San Francisco, July 28.—Organized beer wagon drivers report that the eight-hour day in this calling has been inaugurated practically throughout the entire state.

FOOD CONTROL BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Washington, July 28.—Last Saturday the senate passed the food control bill by a vote of 81 to 5. The house approved this legislation June 23 by a vote of 365 to 5. The measure will now be taken in charge by conferees representing the house and senate because of wide differences of opinion between the two legislative branches.

The senate, on motion of Senator Hollis, specifically provided that the bill shall not affect the labor portions of the Clayton amendments to the Sherman anti-trust law. Congressman Keating, chairman of the labor group, attempted to secure the adoption of this exemption by the house, but failed.

The senate amendments include a minimum wheat price and additional power to the government to handle the coal situation. The latter amendment empowers the government to fix coal prices, wholesale and retail, regulate the entire industry, and, if necessary, take over and operate mines.

The house provision to place the control in the hands of one person was changed by the senate to a board of three. The senate also added sections against hoarding of food and for regulation of grain exchanges authorizing the president to close them if necessary to stop speculation in futures.

The house provision for federal seizure of necessaries is limited by the senate to food, feed and fuel and other supplies for military purposes only. Government purchase and sale of foodstuffs to maintain reasonable prices is limited by the senate to fuel, wheat, flour, meal, beans and potatoes.

The house provision for authority to requisition factories generally was curtailed by the senate to factories, packing houses, mines and other plants needed for military or other public use connected with the common defense.

A senate amendment also creates a congressional committee to supervise war expenditures. This change, together with a board of three to enforce food control, instead of one man, which the house favors, promises to cause protracted discussion and delay passage of the bill.

DEFEAT MANY LABOR BILLS.

Madison, Wis., July 28.—The state legislature, which has just adjourned, defeated many measures beneficial to labor. Included in the list is the anti-injunction bill, which was approved by the assembly but rejected by the senate.

"The issue involved in this bill," says the Wisconsin State Journal, "was plainly one of placing the outworn doctrine of conspiracy as applied in injunctions issued in labor disputes out of the reach of anti-labor judges who are willing on any pretex to enjoin labor organizations from doing anything or everything that employers do not want them to do.

"The senate was strong for proclamations about fighting for democracy in Europe, but it refused to allow the same freedom of action to labor organizations in Wisconsin that has been allowed to labor organizations in Germany for many years; in England since 1896 and by the federal government for several years."

The Wisconsin State Journal, which is not a trade union publication, says the men who voted against injunction regulation "voted for autocracy in its worst form."

UNORGANIZED STRIKE.

San Francisco, July 28.—Unorganized employes of the Pacific oil and lead works have been forced to strike because of a 12-hour day and unbelievable working conditions.

These workers are Greeks, Italians and Austrians and know nothing of trade unionism, but they asked for organized labor's help when several of their number were arrested on the charge of violating the anti-picketing ordinance, although they were not in the vicinity of the plant at the time. The strikers say they are compelled to punch a time clock and change their clothes on their own time. If they forget the clock or are a minute late, they are docked an hour's pay. They are not allowed to wash their hands at the factory, although they work in oil. The water is shut off just before quitting time. On one occasion they say the engineer forgot to shut off the water and when some of the employes washed their hands, they were each docked an hour's pay.

LOW WAGES IN TOPEKA.

Topeka, Kan., July 28.—"There are many able-bodied men in Topeka working for 17 1-2 cents an hour," writes W. T. Luce in the organized labor department of the Topeka Daily Capital.

"This is $10.50 a week for a 11-hour day, $9.45 for a nine-hour day or $8.40 for an eight-hour day. How would you like to support a family on that kind of an income? How much would you 'lay by' for sickness or other misfortune? How many liberty bonds could you buy? Yet the men who are employed at these wages are doing necessary work to keep our transportation facilities in operation."

ONE WORD CAUSES WORRY.

Chicago, July 28.—In wage conferences with the joint committee of their [illegible] employes officers of the Indiana Harbor Belt railroad refused to permit the use of the term "federated."

The workers agreed to compromise by dropping the objectionable word if the officials would increase wages. The company has made one offer but this has been rejected and negotiations are still pending.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE ENDS.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 28.—Striking seamen at British Columbia ports have compromised their wage demand and secured a 15 per cent wage increase, and pay for overtime. The latter gain ends the practice of ship owners who will now pay extra for overwork for the first time. The settlement also includes a practical recognition of the union.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Baltimore, July 28.—United Garment Workers' union No. 16 has secured a union-shop agreement with the Manufacturers' association. Wages of cutters and trimmers are increased $2 a week and chappers and fitters advanced $1.50 a week.

"FLINTS" CONFER.

New Bedford, Mass., July 28.—President Clark and Secretary-Treasurer [illegible] were re-elected by the convention of the American Flint Glass Workers held in this city. [illegible] was selected as the next convention city.